



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 5635

LCO No. 2264

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Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE KINSHIP CARE NAVIGATOR SYSTEM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-98a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "relative caregiver" means a person who
4 is caring for a child related to such person because the parent of the
5 child has died or become otherwise unable to care for the child, and
6 "respite services" means a scheduled period of relief from the ongoing
7 parental responsibilities assumed by relative caregivers, not to exceed
8 fourteen days per calendar year.

9 (b) The Commissioner of Children and Families, in consultation
10 with the Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a program to
11 provide respite services to a relative caregiver who has been appointed
12 guardian or coguardian of a child by any court of competent
13 jurisdiction. Respite services available under such program, may
14 include, but shall not be limited to, enrollment of a child cared for by a
15 relative caregiver in a summer camp program.

16 (c) The Department of Children and Families, in consultation with
 17 the Departments of Social Services, Mental Health and Addiction
 18 Services and Mental Retardation, shall establish, within available
 19 appropriations, a kinship [foster care] navigator program. Such
 20 program shall ensure that: [when the department] (1) When the
 21 Department of Children and Families determines that it is in the best
 22 interest of the child to be placed with a relative for foster care, the
 23 department shall inform the relative regarding procedures to become
 24 licensed as a foster parent, and (2) grandparents and other relatives
 25 caring for a child related to such persons are provided with
 26 information on the array of state services and benefits for which they
 27 may be eligible, including the subsidy program established pursuant
 28 to section 17a-126 of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	17a-98a
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Statement of Purpose:

To provide for the establishment of a kinship navigator system that will provide grandparents and other relative caregivers with information on state services and benefits for which they may be eligible and to provide for the establishment of a program that provides respite services to relative caregivers.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]